

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Buckskin Mountain Phase III

**Proposal Number:** 1170

**DWR Region:** Southern Region

**Lead Agency:** BLM

**County:** Kane

**Project Manager:** Dustin Rooks

**PM Phone:** 4358656113

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 5/1/2008

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**Project Location:** Buckskin Mountain east of Kanab, Utah

**Project Description:** Restoration on the Buckskin Mountain will focus on thinning P-J woodland in areas with a desirable understory of shrubs and forbs.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The woodland communities on the Buckskin Mountain have shown declines in understory productivity over time with loss of important functional groups such as perennial cool season grasses and die-off and decadence of shrubs such as sagebrush and cliffrose. Habitat condition declines have negative implications for wildlife, particularly the Paunsaugunt deer herd which winters in the project area.

**Objectives:** The objective of this project is to improve wildlife habitat by removing competition between key browse species and pinyon-juniper trees.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** The project is consistent with the Monument Management Plan directives to manage for productive wildlife habitat.

Addresses the threat of invasive weeds identified in the WAP. Targets key habitats and 14 wildlife species identified as Tier I, II, and III in the WAP. This project will "restore degraded habitat" and conduct "habitat monitoring and research", two general conservation actions identified in the WAP.

The Deer Herd Unit #27 Draft Management Plan identifies a downward trend in vegetation on the Buckskin Mountain, and specifies that ongoing P-J treatment will be necessary to attain the wintering mule deer objective. This proposal is in line with this planning document.

**Potential Risks:** There is potential for weed invasion. Cheatgrass is found in the project area; however, it has not been shown to dominate for extended periods of time after disturbance.

**Proposed Methods:** The proposed treatment would be to lop and scatter pinyon-juniper using hand crews with chainsaws, removing all trees less than 18" in diameter for approximately 400 acres. Corridors will be left to provide cover for wildlife. An additional 80-100 acres would be cut and the larger wood removed under a Stewardship contract which is planned for fall/winter 2009. This Stewardship project would use matching funds from the Forest Health program (5900).

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**Shapefile Name:** S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1170.shp

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Baseline studies have been placed throughout the study area. UDWR and GSENM have collected data from these baseline plots using standard methodology and these plots will be read annually following project initiation. The plots will focus on vegetation and soil parameters and will be used to determine if the project meets established success criteria. Data collected from the plots will be used to determine changes in management or additional treatment activities.

**Grazing Management:**

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

California Condor

Northern Goshawk

Big Free-tailed Bat

Fringed Myotis

Spotted Bat

Greater Sage-grouse

Black-throated Gray Warbler

Brewer's Sparrow

Monday, March 16, 2009 1:32:01 PM

# Project Proposal

Gray Vireo

Peregrine Falcon

Sage Sparrow

Sage Thrasher

Mule Deer

Yuma Myotis

Pronghorn

Elk

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$39,000.00		\$0.00
BLM	\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00
BLM ARRA	\$25,000.00	3/12/2009	\$25,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$104,000.00</b>		<b>\$65,000.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Lop and Scatter 400 acres @ \$110/acre	\$44,000.00	\$0.00
Other	Additional funding to cover stewardship contract	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	Stewardship contract Forest Health Program	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$64,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>

## Project Map:

